(c) whether the basic amenities are likely to become insufficient by 2000 AD because of increase in urban population;

(d) if so, whether Government have formulated any scheme to augment the existing system of drinking water, sanitation, housing, roads etc.; and

(e) the total amount likely to be spent thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A Technical Group on Population Projections constituted by the Planning Commission, under the Chairmanship of the Registrar General of India, made a population projection for India from 1996 to 2016. It submitted its report in August, 1996. The details are as under:—

Estimated Population, India — 1997 and 2002

(in thousands)

Year	Total	Rural	Urban
1997	949878	688327	261551
2002	1027607	728748	298859

(c) and (d) It has been estimated by the Working Group on Urban Water Supply and Sanitation Sector for Ninth Five Year Plan (1997—2002) that 85% of urban population have access to safe drinking water and 49% of population have access to hygienic sanitation facilities.

Water supply, sanitation and housing being State subjects, it is primarily the responsibility of the State Government to provide, operate, maintain, etc. these facilities.

It has been the endeavour of the Central Govt. to assist the State Governments to achieve the objective of providing these facilities to all. The State Government are being assisted to improve infrastructure facilities in the urban areas through the Centrally sponsored schemes of the Accelerated Urban Water Supply Programme (AUWSP), the Low Cost Sanitation (LCS), Integrated Development of Small & Medium Towns (IDSMT) AND THE Mega-City Scheme.

Apart from this, the Housing & Urban Development Corporation (HUDCO) is also providing funds for development of urban infrastructure facilities and has so far financed 629 infrastructure schemes with the project cost of Rs. 10505.70 crores involving loan component of Rs. 5492.55 crores.

(e) The sectoral allocations for the 9th Five Year Plan have not been finalised by the Planning Commission.

LRTS for Hyderabad and Visakhapatnam

911. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Andhra Pradesh has requested Government to advise about the sources for funding the preparation of detailed budget report for Light Rail Transit Service (LRTS) for Hyderabad and Visakhapatnam; and

(b) if so, the response of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Proposal for funding of the preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR) for Light Rail Transit System in Hyderabad only has been received. The issue had been discussed on 15.6.98 with representatives of Government of Andhra Pradesh by this Ministry. After discussions, it was decided that Govt. of Andhra Pradesh will prepare a proposal for seeking external grant for the proposed study. Any shortfall in the requirement of funds will be shared equally by the constituents of Urban

Mass Transit Company (UMTC) which has been set up to implement the project. Government of India has been released Rs. 7 crores towards equity of UMTC.

No proposal seeking external grant has yet been received from Government of Andhra Pradesh.

Tax-Free Bonds for Mobilising Resources

912. SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that this Ministry is seeking higher allocations of tax-free bonds for mobilising resources to meet the target of constructing two million houses annually;

(b) if so, who would be beneficiaries of these two million houses and has any time frame been drawn for the purpose; and

(c) whether his Ministry is also keeping any reservation for these houses for the economically weaker sections?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The National Agenda of Governance envisages a target of two million houses per year. Out of which, 7 lakh houses are to be constructed in urban areas. An action plan and State-wise breakup of the target have been prepared. Necessary action is being taken by HUDCO and other financial institutions to provide finance to achieve the target. Special care will be taken for the EWS and LIG sections of the population, who will be amongst the main beneficiaries.

Introduction of Innovative Construction Material

913. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that HUDCO has introduced housing materials which are eco-friendly, energy efficient and cost-effective; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps Government propose to popularise the use of these innovative construction materials on a Large scale?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details of the cost effective technologies/building material are enclosed as statement. In Order to popularise cost effective technologies/ building materials, HUDCO under this Ministry, finances and supports building material industries, particularly those using industrial and agricultural wastes.

Government is promoting cost-effective technologies by establishing building centres through HUDCO. HUDCO provides 0.25% reduction in interest rates for using the cost-effective technologies and is also providing technical assistance in terms of grant to the agencies to construct schools, public buildings etc. for demonstrating these technologies. Financial support for setting up of building material industries by way of term loans and equity contribution is also provided.

Statement

Details of Cost-effective Technologies/ Building Materials Promoted/Popularised by HUDCO

1. Clay Fly Ash Bricks
2. Stabilised Mud Fly Ash Bricks
3. Calcium Silicate Bricks
4. Autoclaved Aerated Concrete